

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-14 USIA-12 OMB-01 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /143 W

----- 128424

R 221122 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8439

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: MASS, PFOR PK, IN

SUBJECT: ARMS: PAKISTANI REACTION

REFERENCE: ISLAMABAD 2186 AND 2205

1. PRESIDENT BHUTTO' S COMMENTS ON LIFTING OF ARMS
EMBARGO MARCH 15 (REFTELS) SET TONE OF LOW- KEYED
MEDIA REACTION. WHILE WELCOMING USG DECISION,
PRESS GENERALLY EMPHASIZED THAT US WAS RIGHTING A
WRONG IN LIFTING EMBARGO. SOME NEWSPAPERS WENT
FURTHER TO SUGGEST THAT PAKISTAN MOVE CLOSE TOWARDS
US AS COUNTERBALANCE TO INDIAN TIES WITH USSR.
AFTER INITIAL COMMENT, MOST NEWSPAPERS FOCUSED
THEIR ATTENTION ON INDIAN OFFICIAL AND PUBLIC
REACTION, TAKING THEIR CUE FORM BHUTTO' S ADVICE THAT
GOI SHOULD NOT OVER- REACT. BY BEGINNING OF THIS
WEEK, PRESS HAD AGAINTURNED LARGELY TO DOMESTIC
POLITICS CENTERED ON DEBATE OVER DRAFT CONSTITUTION
NOW UNDERWAY IN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

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2. EMBOFFS HAVE ENCOUNTERED SURPRISINGLY LITTLE COMMENT OR QUERIES FROM PAKISTANI OFFICIALS AND OTHERS IN THE CAPITAL AREA. PAKISTANI JOURNALISTS HAVE, HOWEVER, AKSED FOR NUMBER OF CLARIFICATIONS FROM USIS. IN SUM, REACTION IN PAKISTAN TO DATE HAS BEEN MARKED BY ABSENCE INFLATED EXPECTATIONS, FAIRLY REALISTIC APPRECIATION OF WHAT US DECISION MEANS, AND ONLY MODEST AMOUNT OF GLOATING AT EXPENSE OF INDIA -- ALL IN ALL, PRETTY MUCH WHAT WE HAD HOPED IT WOULD BE.
SOBER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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30 JUN 2005

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KARACHI
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